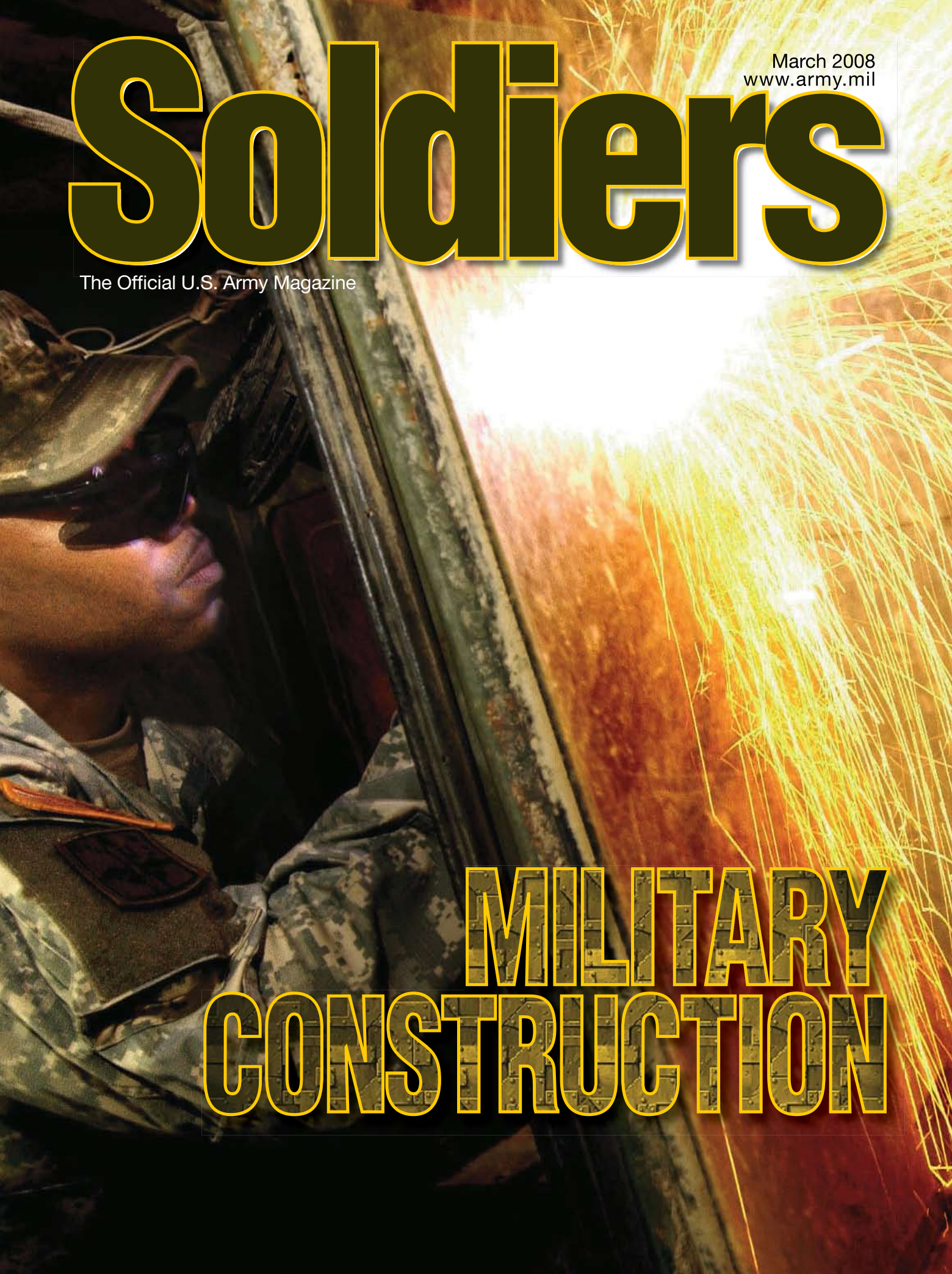

Soldiers

March 2008
www.army.mil

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

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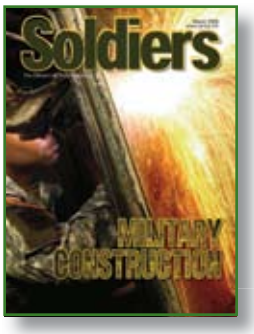

Cover Image

Construction is under way throughout the Army on facilities intended to improve mission capability, unit cohesion and quality of life.

— Photo by Tech. Sgt. John M. Foster, USAF

Accident Risk-Assessment Poster

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SOLDIERS MEDIA CENTER

We Want Your Story

The Army is our nation's greatest resource in defense of our homeland. Every day Soldiers and civilians perform acts of valor. The heroic acts performed on the battlefield and the acts of kindness from humanitarian efforts demonstrate the strength of the Army. We want to tell your story. To find out how the Soldiers Media Center can tell your story, contact your unit public affairs officer or send your submissions via e-mail to

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U.S.ARMY

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The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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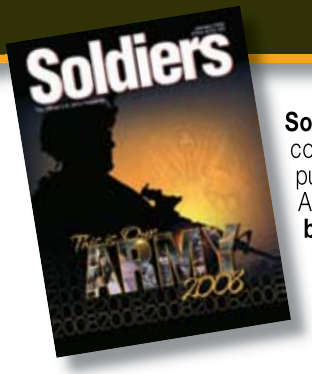

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MAILCALL

Letters **from** the **Field**

This is Our Army

EVERY year I look forward to the "This is Our Army" issue because it contains such a wealth of information. And the 2008 edition is as good as I expected it to be.

I'm sure you get a lot of positive input about the rank and insignia poster, and rightly so. It's a really useful resource, and I always make sure that the latest version goes up in the company office. The other info — "Where We Are," "Army Organization" and the careers data — is also very useful.

I have to admit, though, that my favorite part of every "This is Our Army" issue is the photos from around the Army. It's great to see all the things Soldiers are doing worldwide, and the photos are always top-notch in terms of quality.

Thanks for the effort you obviously put into the annual special issue, and keep up the good work!

Staff Sgt. Jason Lewin
via e-mail

THANKS for the feedback. As you might expect, budgetary constraints limit the number of pull-outs we can do in any one issue, and most of our readers prefer that the uniform/ribbons/badges be the "big-ticket" item in the Almanac. That being said, we'll try to do the Army Values posters in an upcoming issue.

ENJOYED the January Almanac issue, but I noticed an omission you might want to correct next year.

On the medals poster, you left out two United Nations medals that some Soldiers might be eligible to wear. The first is the medal for the U.N. Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the second is for the U.N. Observer Mission in Liberia. The eligibility period for each is a minimum of 90 days as a member of the mission, and U.S. military personnel took part in both.

SFC Alan Lundgren
via e-mail

Rainier Rescuers

THE photo that opens the December story about Reserve CH-47s that do rescues on Mount Rainer was awesome. I'm an amateur photographer, and I really like the way everything is in sharp focus and still has great depth of field.

Can you give me the details about how that shot was taken?

Jim Alworh
via e-mail

STEVE Harding replies: First, thanks for the kind words about the "Rainier Rescuers" photo. The folks of Company A, 159th Aviation Regiment, do a very important job in an extremely professional way, and it was an honor to get to fly with them. As to the picture, I wish I could claim to be a pro photographer, but the truth is I just followed some very good advice I was given years ago by someone who was definitely a pro — for excellent shots that are in focus and have great depth of field, there's only one rule: "f/16 and be there." And, of course, it helps if you use a really expensive, idiot-proof digital camera.

Adopt a Soldier Success

I JUST wanted to thank you so much for Heike Hasenauer's wonderful December article about Fort Bragg's Adopt a Soldier Program.

Within just a few weeks after the article appeared, the more than 200 Soldiers on our list had all been "adopted" by folks from across the nation who read your article.

I now have a waiting list of CIVILIANS who want to "adopt" some of our recently deployed Soldiers, and most of them found out about the program from your article.

Thanks so much! Your support was a huge help!

Vicky L. Lee
Fort Bragg, N.C.

Toad Protection

I'M as big on environmental issues as the next guy, but I laughed when I read the December story "Protecting the Western Toad."

Don't get me wrong — it's probably really important in the grand scheme of things that some really ugly toad survives, and even flourishes, at Fort Lewis — or maybe not.

I mean, seriously folks, when the nation is fighting two wars (three, if you count the war on terror), do we really need to put so much time, effort and money into making sure that one of the ugliest creatures God ever created gets to hop around for a few more years?

Name withheld by request
via e-mail

Soldiers Values Your Opinion

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The Army's Build

Story by Heike Hasenauer

SHARING a room in a vintage Korean War-era building and trekking down the hall to go to the bathroom are becoming things of the past for today's Soldiers, said Rick Lotz, chief of the Military Support Section of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Louisville District in Kentucky.

The Army is investing some $40 billion over the next five years in military construction to make Army life more attractive to Soldiers and their families, at the same time the service beefs up training, eases the process of deployment preparation, and logically positions units based on present and projected requirements, said USACE's director of military programs, Maj. Gen. Merdith Temple.

Money for Construction

The largest military construction budget since World War II will buy some of the largest facilities in the Army's inventory and some of the most modern anywhere, Temple said.

Among those are a military-operations-in-urbanized-terrain training site at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.; a fitness center at Fort Benning, Ga.; a daycare center at Fort Meyer, Va.; a shopping center at the maneuver-training site at Grafenwöhr, Germany; and a barracks-dining facility complex at Camp Humphreys, Korea.

Soldiers and their families can be assured that these facilities are being built to the highest standards, to stand the test of time and use. And unlike the merely functional facilities built during previous wars, what's being built for the Army today is comparable to what's being built in suburban communities across the country — aesthetically pleasing places that include the amenities families need and want.

In today's fast-paced Army — where roughly 75,000 Soldiers and family members will be re-stationed from overseas to the United States between now and 2011, and the ac-

Heike Hasenauer

(Top right) New BCT facilities — such as this one at Fort Knox, Ky. — are being constructed according to a standard BCT-design template.

The Army's ongoing barracks-renewal program will upgrade even those facilities that were refurbished in the late 1990s, such as this room at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

ling Boom

Barbara L. Sellers (both this page)

The Eagle View housing area on North Fort Lewis, Wash., boasts 84 single-family and duplex units.

The Eagle View II Equity Residential housing area on Fort Lewis' main post area includes 48 single-family and duplex structures ranging from 1,236 to 1,428 square feet.

tive-duty force will increase by nearly 50,000 Soldiers by 2012 — military construction is booming, Temple said.

Never before has so much emphasis been placed on Soldiers' and families' qualify of life, whether it be in the modern, suburban-neighborhood-type homes in which they live or the state-of-the-art training facilities at which Soldiers prepare for combat, said Ned Christensen, a spokesman for the Installation Management Command in Arlington, Va.

"Army Secretary Pete Geren and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey signed the Army Family Covenant in October 2007. This initiative ensures Soldiers and their families have a quality of life commensurate with their service," said Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, the Army's assistant chief of staff for installation management and IMCOM commander.

"The recent 'Grow the Army' decision will expand our ranks by 74,200," he said. "An important element of maintaining the all-volunteer force is the quality of life of our Soldiers and families. The excep-

Timothy L. Hale

Soldiers across the Army will benefit from new, high-tech training ranges and simulation facilities.

tional partnership between IMCOM and USACE has provided the best Army facilities and housing in the world. The Army's 'builders' deliver today's necessities — including style, familiarity, safety, sustainability and environmental friendliness — with their construction packages." *[See sidebar, "The Army's Builders."]*

Modular Forces Requirements

As an example, as brigade combat teams return from Iraq and Afghanistan, they're moving into completed BCT facilities in the United States, which are being constructed according to a standard BCT-design template, said USACE spokesman Doug Garman.

So Soldiers don't just have a place to live and work, they know — based on the BCT they left behind — where the headquarters, barracks, dining facility, arms room and motor pool are located. The change supports the Army's plan for greater troop flexibility, allowing Soldiers to gather their gear more quickly and be ready to deploy wherever they may be needed, Temple said.

Fort Lewis, Wash., the first Army installation to field a Stryker brigade, will receive $350 million for improvements to accommodate additional combat teams there.

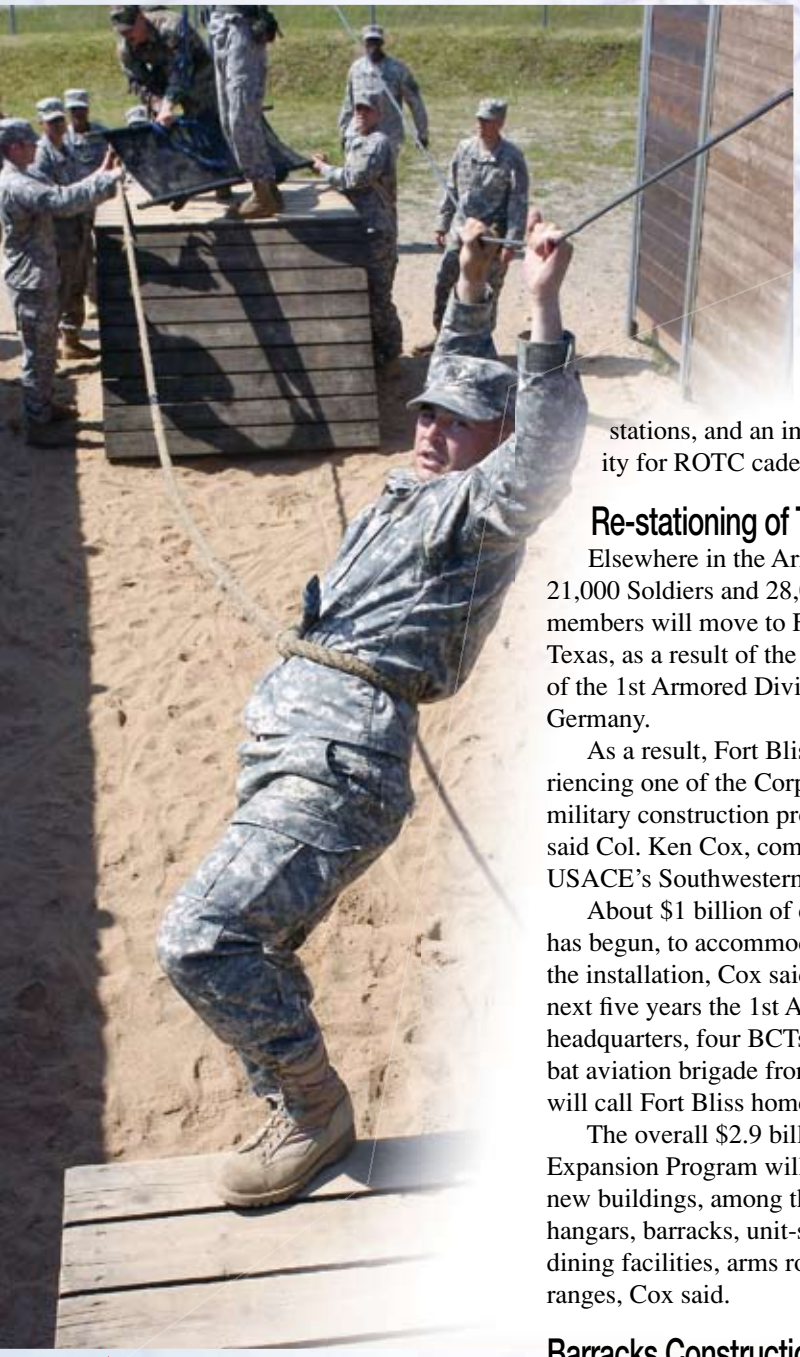
"Since 2004, the number of Soldiers at Fort Lewis has grown from about 21,000 to 32,000," said Thomas Poole, a spokesman for the USACE's Seattle District in Washington.

Many World War II-era facilities at Fort Lewis have been demolished to meet congressional requirements, he said. Until the new facilities can be completed, temporary buildings are being used. For a time, the post may appear to be bursting at the seams.

Child-development and youth centers, as examples, are in short supply in contrast to a burgeoning number of newly arriving families, Poole said. But military construction funds have been requested for additional centers to accommodate the anticipated influx of children.

Fort Lewis will be working with a construction budget of more than $2 billion for fiscal years 2009 to 2013, Poole said. Besides child-development and youth centers, construction will include barracks, battalion and brigade headquarters, a medical/dental clinic and military treatment facility, fitness center, chapels, fire

Quality-of-life projects being undertaken Armywide include such things as day-care centers, youth centers and playgrounds, such as this one at Fort Bliss, Texas.



A Soldier traverses the rope course at the NCO Academy in Grafenwöhr, Germany, site of ongoing construction efforts.

stations, and an improved facility for ROTC cadets.

Re-stationing of Troops

Elsewhere in the Army, some 21,000 Soldiers and 28,000 family members will move to Fort Bliss, Texas, as a result of the re-stationing of the 1st Armored Division from Germany.

As a result, Fort Bliss is experiencing one of the Corps' largest military construction projects ever, said Col. Ken Cox, commander of the USACE's Southwestern Division.

About $1 billion of construction has begun, to accommodate BCTs at the installation, Cox said. Within the next five years the 1st Armd. Div.'s headquarters, four BCTs and a combat aviation brigade from Fort Hood will call Fort Bliss home.

The overall $2.9 billion Fort Bliss Expansion Program will include 300 new buildings, among them aircraft hangars, barracks, unit-storage and dining facilities, arms rooms and 15 ranges, Cox said.

Barracks Construction

At Fort Campbell, Ky., home to some 35,000 Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Div., the 5th Special Forces Group and the 160th Spec. Operations Aviation Regiment, among other units, "a tremendous amount of barracks construction is under way," said Lotz.

Construction also includes "a host of support projects," including tactical-equipment maintenance bays and improvements to Campbell Army Airfield that will allow troops to deploy more quickly, Lotz said. After Sept. 11, 2001, a new rail connector was added to the post to cut deployment time from six months to 45 days.

The post is abuzz with new construction — 1,500 barracks spaces, one child-development center (with designs in the works for three additional centers) and a new Residential-Communities-Initiative housing development with 500 homes, Lotz said.

At Fort Carson, Colo., where the population is also expected to more than double in the next few years, $1.5 billion has been earmarked through 2013 to support the relocation of two brigades — some 7,600 Soldiers — from Fort Hood, said Capt. John Lory of the USACE's Omaha District in Nebraska. Additionally, the post is preparing for the arrival of 1,000 Soldiers from the 4th Inf. Div.'s headquarters at Fort Hood; the 4th Inf. Div.'s 4th Brigade from Korea and a 10th SF Grp. battalion from Germany.

A sniper range is to be built, as is a U.S. Army Special Operations Command shoot house, a sniper range, a battle-command training center and a warrior-in-transition complex, Lory said.

David Dismukes

Paratroopers at Fort Benning, Ga., will benefit from a new fitness center that is being built to support both unit readiness and ongoing quality-of-life initiatives.

Changes in Korea

By far the largest ongoing construction project is at Camp Humphreys, said Dennis Bohannon, a spokesman for the assistant chief of staff for installation management at the Pentagon.

The once-small U.S. Garrison Humphreys, located in Pyeongtaek, 55 miles south of Seoul, is undergoing major changes. By 2012 it will accommodate all U.S. forces formerly located near Seoul, and boost the garrison's current population of 10,000 to about 44,000 Soldiers, civilian employees, contractors and family members, said Brig. Gen. Al Aycock, director of IMCOM-Korea Region.

Changes in Europe

In Europe, too, cranes and bulldozers can be found working for the Army in Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, said Ken White, chief of public affairs for the IMCOM-Europe region.

Army leaders are still working to determine how many brigades are needed in Europe and where they will be located, he said. Meantime, construction is largely centered in Vicenza, Italy, home to elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team; and in Germany at the Grafenwöhr training center and nearby Vilseck and Hohenfels; and Stuttgart, Ansbach, Wiesbaden, Bamberg and

Virginia Reza

The Army is committed to building facilities that are comparable to those in suburban civilian communities, including post exchanges and commissaries that incorporate eateries, banks and other services.

As part of the BRAC 2005 restructuring, the U.S. Army Armor Center and School will move from Fort Knox, Ky., to Fort Benning, Ga., the home of the infantry.

Baumholder.

Housing is a focus, to the tune of $140 million, White said. But child-development and physical-fitness centers, post exchanges and commissaries are all included in the lineup of major military construction in Europe, with, among many other projects, a 184,000-square-foot mega mall coming to Wiesbaden, White said.

BRAC 2005 Offshoots

Whole installations are being restructured or shut down as mandated by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The restructuring will precipitate the movement of approximately 55,000 people over the next five years, said Lynne Anderson, deputy chief of ACSIM's BRAC Division in Arlington, Va.

BRAC 2005 recommendations to Congress led to decisions that will shut down 13 installations in the United States and impact 53 other U.S. installations by 2011, Anderson said.

As examples, the U.S. Army Armor Center and School, at Fort Knox, Ky., will move to Fort Benning, Ga., the home of the infantry. Fort Knox will retain the Army Recruiting Command and gain U.S. Army Accessions Command personnel; and Fort Meade, Md., will gain several thousand people by 2011, when the Defense Department moves its newly created Defense Media Agency and other organizations there.

BRAC 2005 also will result in the realignment and expansion of Fort Lee, Fort Belvoir and Fort Eustis, Va.; Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Sill, Okla. Redstone Arsenal, Ala., home of the Army's Space and Missile Defense Command, will gain one of the Army's largest commands, the Army Materiel Command.

The reserve component is also experiencing major changes.

"Under the military construction program for the reserve component 176 Reserve centers will close and 125 new joint armed forces Reserve centers will be built," Anderson said.

A Pledge to Families

With the November 2007 announcement of the Army Family Convenant — the services' pledge to provide Soldiers and their families "a quality of life that is commensurate with their service," and "a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive" — the Army is continuing to build state-of-the-art housing for Soldiers and their families that's comparable to the housing in modern suburbia, Bohannon said.

Military construction today encompasses some 87,000 on-post family housing units at 45 installations in the United States, said Ivan Bolden, a spokesman for the assistant chief of staff for installation management's director of Army privatized housing.

Residential Communities Initiative projects for 2008 and 2009 are under way at West Point, N.Y.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely, Alaska; Fort Huachuca and Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.; and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., he said.

The RCI allows the Army — which had a $7 billion family housing backlog in 1996 — to use appropriat-

MILCON projects at Grafenwöhr's Netzaberg Village include schools, a childcare center and a chapel, among other facilities.

Heike Hasenauer

ed funds and the value of the Army's assets to obtain private-sector capital and expertise for the management, renovation, construction, maintenance and operation of military family housing, Bolden said.

Army Hawaii Family Housing LLC is the largest RCI project ever awarded by the Army, said Joseph Bonfiglio, a USACE spokesman in Hawaii. Upon completion, it will be among the world's largest solar-powered communities. The project includes the development, design, construction, renovation and property management of 7,894 homes across seven installations on Oahu.

While commercial contractors build the Army's facilities, gaining installations and organizations are involved in the process from start to finish, with the USACE being the overall quality-assurance experts, Bohannon added.

Army medical facilities — such as this operating room at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany — will continue to boast state-of-the-art equipment and services.

Medical Facilities

Among the newest developments in Army medicine is the Army Medical Action Plan, which will result in construction of "warrior-in-transition campuses," Temple said. Those will include barracks, administration centers and family assistance centers at locations where the need is the greatest.

Work has begun on seven of the campuses, he said. Seventeen additional projects are to begin in 2008, with all of the campuses to be completed by 2010.

Additionally, in November 2007 officials at Fort Belvoir broke ground for construction of the six-story,

$747 million, 1.2-million-square-foot Belvoir Community Hospital, which will replace the existing 1950s-era DeWitt Army Community Hospital on that post.

And Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., continues its preparations to shut down as planners work to integrate and standardize medical care by 2011 for the joint services at what's to become Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, at the site of Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, said Joint Task Force National Capital Region-Medical spokesman Col. Scott Wardell.

In the future, WRAMC patients will receive care at the hospital in Bethesda and at Fort Belvoir, added Col. J. Mark Webb, a spokesman for Army Medical Department transformation in the Office of the Surgeon General.

The new Fort Belvoir hospital "represents our continuing commitment to provide the highest-quality, compassionate care to military service members, veterans and their families," said Maj. Gen. Gale Pollock, commander of U.S. Army Medical Command.

Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, is the site of an ongoing $2 billion construction project.

A $2 billion construction project is also going on at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, said Col. Suzanne Cuda, program manager for construction at the hospital.

Officials said the Army won't be finished building when the timelines run out for BRAC 2005-related construction, re-stationing the force and increasing the strength of the Army. There'll be a construction program well into the future, they said.

The Army's Builders

THE Army's "builders" include Installation Management Command managers Army-wide, who identify needs at their respective posts; personnel in the office of the Army's assistant chief of staff for installation management, who review, prioritize and approve the facilities, standards and criteria; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is the Army's agent for developing, acquiring and managing facility designs and construction contracts; and the countless contractors and subcontractors who design and build the structures.

Then it's the commands — such as the U.S. Army Medical Command and the Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command — and Department of Defense agencies like the DOD Education Activity, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and others that are also important stakeholders in developing and building quality facilities for Soldiers and their families, said Maj. Gen. Merdith Temple, the USACE's director of military programs.

Before construction can begin, representatives of the Army Environmental Center must conduct an environmental site survey and assessment to ensure Environmental Protection Agency and host-nation laws are adhered to, said Ned Christensen, a spokesman for the Installation Management Command. — *Heike Hasenauer*

Changing the Way We Build

Story by Heike Hasenauer

OVER the past four years the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has experienced three times its "normal" workload, said Maj. Gen. Merdith Temple, the USACE's director of military programs in Washington, D.C.

But, the organization was forewarned and, thus, prepared.

"In 2004 the Army leadership alerted us that we'd have a lot more to do," said Temple. "So we reached out to industry to find out how we could handle the demand for new construction and renovations. The result was military construction transformation."

Everyone involved in military construction today has had to change the way they do business to meet today's faster construction turnaround times, he said.

Among the Army's assets is the ability to design buildings using technology that "allows us to see the building in three- and four-dimensional views," Temple said. "That allows us to design a building and build it 'virtually,' so we can look for potential problems in the building and build better structures, faster."

Also to the Army's advantage is the fact that engineers can now put a building together inside a manufacturing center, Temple said. And the building can be delivered, installed and hooked up to existing utilities on-site.

Today, too, "we're developing standard facility designs and criteria for facilities that aren't common from

The Army is changing the way it designs and builds facilities, relying more on state-of-the-art computer-aided design software and innovative modular-construction techniques.

installation to installation, such as barracks, dining halls and training facilities," said Dale Jackson of USACE's Directorate of Military Programs.

"This allows us to use the best designs and create similar clusters of facilities from installation to installation," he said.

That's not to say everything will look alike, Temple said. Buildings are built to blend into each installation's existing environment and architectural scheme. The most modern, one-plus-one barracks rooms may be located in a two-story or a three-to-four-story barracks building. The building may look different from the outside, but inside it's the same.

At the same time contractors must consider speed and quality, they must use materials that will allow for changes to be made to the interiors of the buildings 25 years from now, Temple said. Building new facilities sometimes means taking down old ones. In doing so, "we're sensitive to helping preserve and sustain the environment," he said. When the Army demolishes old buildings, it's required to recycle 50 percent of the materials it takes down.

Additionally, more-stringent environmental laws require the Army to reduce energy loss by 30 percent, by using such better materials as insulated doors and windows.

Overseas, the Army must honor the laws of the host nation in which the construction is taking place and help protect that nation's environment.

Before the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment arrived in Grafenwöhr, Germany, in summer 2006, officials of the garrison's Directorate of Public Works assured the regiment's leaders that Strykers could train on the land, which had long been compromised by heavy vehicular traffic and soil erosion, said Manfred Rieck, chief of the division.

Environmental officials initiated several projects to combat erosion. They opened berms to eliminate "erosion bottlenecks" and reseeded some 4,000 acres of training land. Where land was impacted, engineers used a roller with hardened steel teeth to loosen the soil to make it useable for training, Rieck said.

Construction of a new barracks at Fort Campbell, Ky., illustrates the Corps of Engineers' MILCON transformation design-build philosophy. Here, roof trusses are assembled on the ground immediately adjacent to the barracks...

... and are then lifted into place and secured. When completed, the barracks complex will house 384 Soldiers of one of two combat aviation brigades stationed at Fort Campbell as part of the 101st Airborne Division.

The business of building has changed, because contractors are no longer afforded long periods of time to complete projects. Housing, training complexes and support facilities must be ready when Soldiers and families arrive at their new duty locations.

"It's not magic," said Dennis Bohannon, a spokesman for the assistant secretary of the army for installation management. "It's not just about breaking ground for a facility and then participating in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The USACE, which is responsible for bringing in the bulldozers and managing the daily operations of a military construction project, is responsible for quality control.

Today, under Military Construction Transformation, high-quality, adaptable, environmentally sound and sustainable facilities will be delivered to users at 15 percent lower cost and in 30 percent less time than before, Temple said.

Some of that's due to the fact that the Army no longer has to provide contractors the specifications for paint and sizes of nuts and bolts, Temple

Heike Hasenauer

The installation of open berms, reseeding of training land and other environmental-restoration efforts in the United States, Europe and Korea have ensured that Soldiers will continue to train for years to come.

said. The same specifications used by contractors to build a commercial facility can be used to build a military facility, which allows the Army to build quality facilities faster and at lower cost.

"Before, a project, from initial planning to completion, took five to seven years," added Rick Lotz, chief of the Military Support Section of the USACE's Louisville District in Kentucky. "Today, we've cut that time to two to four years."

Iraq
Soldiers return to Camp Taji after a patrol.
— Photo by Senior Airman Steve Czyz, USAF

Djibouti

Sgts. Joey Cruz and Joey Toves of the Guam Army National Guard's 294th Infantry Regiment climb a hill — part of Africa's Rift Valley — during an exercise. *— Photo by Senior Airman Jamie Train, USAF*

Kuwait

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regt., load their baggage onto a truck at Camp Virginia before flying back to the United States at the end of their 15-month deployment to Iraq.

— Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde

Afghanistan

Spc. Nicholas Barron of the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team stays warm while pulling security in Parwan Province. — *Photo by Pfc. Daniel M. Rangel*

Afghanistan

Pfc. Jerry Cleveland and Spc. Brett Mitchell of the International Security Assistance Force fire a 120mm mortar during a combat operation in the Da'udzay Valley in Zabol Province.

— *Photo by SFC Jim Downen*

South Korea

Eighth U.S. Army Soldiers and Korean augmentees use a human chain to move bags of oil-covered rags and contaminated sand during the clean-up effort that followed the oil spill caused by a tanker accident off Baeknipo Beach in Taean.

— *Photo by Spc. Michael Adams*

Remaking Schofield Barracks

Story by Will Cole

IN an Army that prides itself on tradition, history runs extra deep at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The post's iconic quadrangle barracks with their grassy courtyards were around when cavalry — the four-legged variety, not the helicopter version — was a fighting force at the post.

The barracks were strafed on Dec. 7, 1941, and 11th Field Artillery Regiment history holds that men of K Quad shot down one of the 29 Japanese planes downed on the "Day of Infamy."

Novelist James Jones lived in the Quads as a young Soldier, and his classic 1951 novel "From Here to Eternity" opens with Pvt. Robert E. Lee Prewitt leaning on the third-floor railing of a Quad and surveying the busy courtyard below.

Completed in 1919, I Quad — actually not a quad, as it has only three sides — is showing its age, as well as the handiwork of less-than-historically-accurate midlife modifications, including lots of overhead pipes, snaking wires, individual air conditioners and boarded-over transoms.

But for the past 12 years the Army and Hawaii's congressional delegation have been waging a successful fight to upgrade the standard of living for single soldiers.

Restoring the Quads

Five of the Schofield Quads — including one that dates to 1914 — are being restored to historic accuracy on the outside, while their interiors are being gutted and rebuilt to meet modern standards.

Sgt. Eric Raymond of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, has experienced the history and tradition, too, as well as its downside, including gang latrines and lack of privacy in I Quad.

"Not the easiest way of living," the 24-year-old said.

"I think it's a casebook study in historic preservation and meeting contemporary needs of the military," said Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii), who pushed for the barracks improvements.

Raymond and another Soldier now share a suite with two lockable bedrooms, a kitchen and a bathroom, in what the Army calls a "one-plus-one" living arrangement.

Will Cole is a reporter for the Honolulu Advertiser. This article is being reprinted by permission.

Housing Overhaul

The $1 billion Schofield project, which will continue into 2011, is part of an overall $10 billion barracks-modernization effort that will affect some 136,000 Soldiers Armywide. Through a public-private partnership, contractors are also building 5,388 Army family homes worldwide and renovating 2,506 others over 10 years.

The number of Soldiers on Oahu, home to Schofield and several other major military installations, grew from 17,000 in 2002 to 18,000 in 2006, and is expected to increase to 21,000 in three years as the Army modernizes and Hawaii takes a greater role as a forward launching point for military operations throughout Asia and the Pacific.

As a "quality-of-life" issue at a time when repeated war duty makes recruitment difficult, the Army has found that better barracks for single Soldiers significantly increase morale.

(Above and at center left) Completed in the 1900s, each of the Quads at Schofield Barracks housed 1,500 Soldiers, who lived one company to a floor. The Quads were strafed by the Japanese on Dec. 7, 1941.

Quality of Life

For Soldiers like Raymond, a decent living area provides a little bit of privacy while otherwise being surrounded by the Army. He has a blue recliner and big-screen TV to go with the oak-colored desk, bed, TV stand and other furniture that's provided.

"We live close to work. I take 10 steps out of my front door, and I'm there," he said. "To have a place where I can relax in private and not have anybody I work with come hang around me is essential and crucial to my sanity."

Schofield's E Quad is partly done, but sections are still being renovated. Ladders, insulation and other construction materials surround the original concrete shell representing some of the earliest pre-form concrete buildings in Hawaii.

Quads C and F have been renovated, and D and B are scheduled for renovation in 2011, Army officials said. Each will have housing for about 300 Soldiers.

The Army has built 11 new barracks buildings at Schofield and Wheeler Army Airfield, with two remaining to be built.

Heike Hasenauer

The $1 billion Schofield project, which will continue into 2011, has already resulted in 11 new barracks buildings on the Oahu post and at Wheeler Army Airfield, with two more remaining to be built.

Building a Better QUALITY OF LIFE

Story by Bernard Tate

BY fiscal year 2011 the Army will have spent an estimated $917 million on such quality-of-life projects as childcare centers, shopping areas, housing, and fitness facilities, based on QOL funding beginning in FY 2006, officials said.

"Quality-of-life facilities focus more on supporting the morale, welfare, health, and spiritual well-being of Soldiers and their families than on mission or operational facilities," said Dale Jackson, chief of USACE's Program Integration Branch.

"Offering young people a good quality of life is important to recruitment and retention in an all-volunteer Army," Jackson said.

USACE is just one partner in the military construction team that delivers quality-of-life facilities. *[See related story, "The 'Builders.'"]*

One of USACE's most important current projects is the construction of warriors-in-transition campuses, said Maj. Gen. Merdith Temple, director of military programs. These facilities will support wounded Soldiers and their families as Soldiers recover from injuries and either transition back to active duty or return to civilian life.

The Warrior Transition Unit program will be a $1.2 billion investment in caring for wounded Soldiers.

The USACE is building many other facilities to give Soldiers and their families the same quality of life their civilian counterparts enjoy. For example, Shelton Court at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., could be a suburb in almost any town, but the neighborhood of meandering streets, beautiful homes and grassy play areas is actually military housing.

During the past five years 650 new family housing units have been built at Fort Huachuca. USACE's Los Angeles District managed $126 million in contracts to build single-family and duplex residences in suburban-style neighborhoods on the post.

The elastomeric-coated stucco-over-frame construction makes the exterior of the dwellings both durable and aesthetically pleasing, while providing significant insulation. High-efficiency air-conditioning units and programmable thermostats further ensure residents' comfort, USACE officials said.

In Arizona, where sunshine is an ever-present, heat-creating light source,

Bernard Tate works for the Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs Office.

An artist's conception of the Fort Knox High School. — *Artist rendering courtesy USACE Louisville District.*

energy-efficient windows were installed in every unit. In addition, designers used 14-inch skylights in bathrooms, kitchens, interior storage rooms and utility rooms to refract and redirect sunlight, providing more light with less heat buildup.

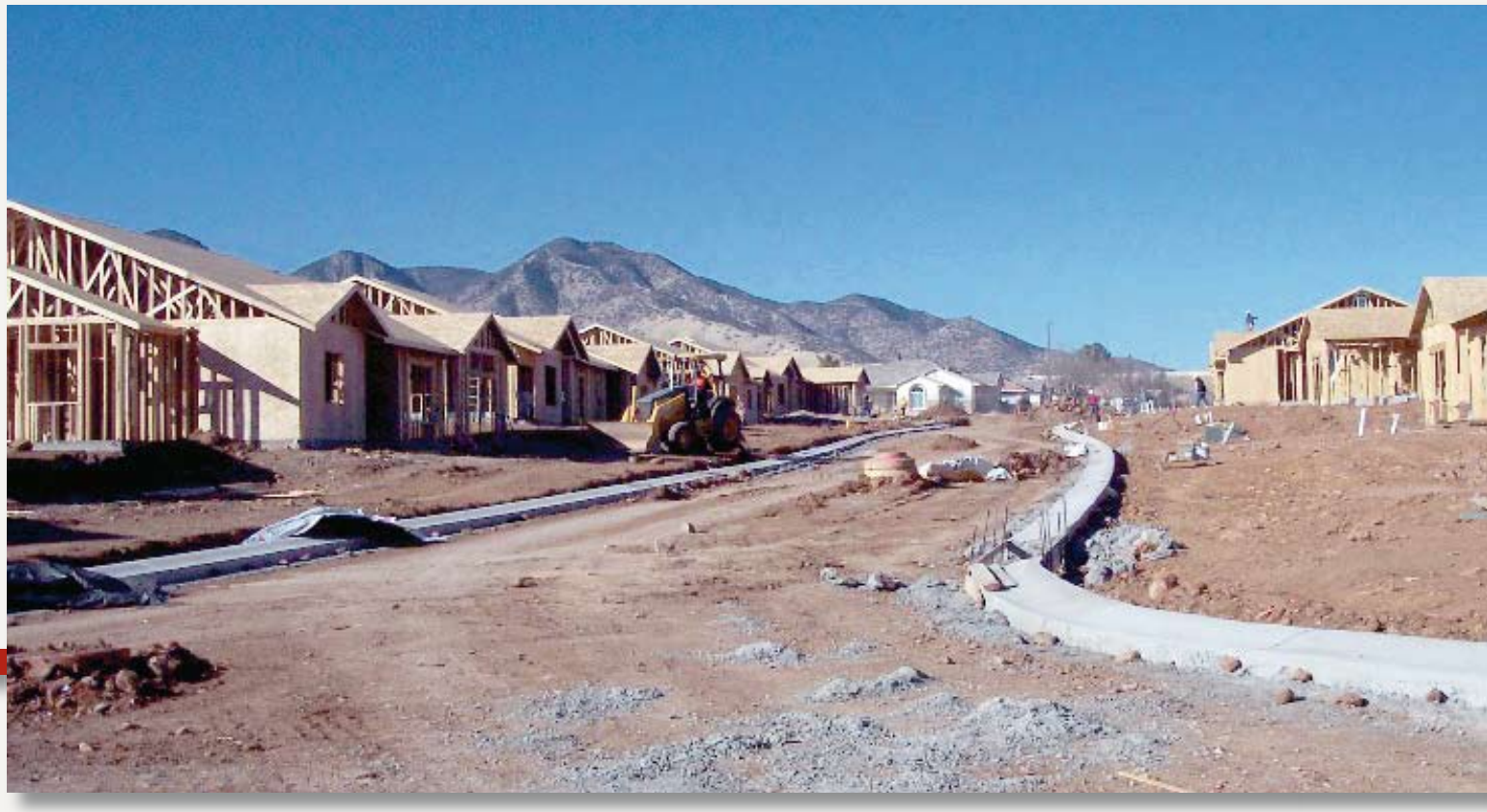
From housing to schools, the Army is looking at the whole community. In Kentucky, Sarah Turner, the principal at Fort Knox High School, knows the importance of quality facilities for students and for the Department of Defense Education Activity.

"A new high school at Fort Knox will emphasize the importance of providing the best for military children," Turner said. "An expected outcome will be a sense of pride in their school, which enhances the high standards DoDEA sets for every student."

USACE's Louisville District built the two-story, 71,500-square-foot school, renovated two existing buildings and demolished the existing school.

Upgrades included maximum ceil-

During the past five years some 650 new housing units — including the Shelton Court complex seen here — have been built at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.



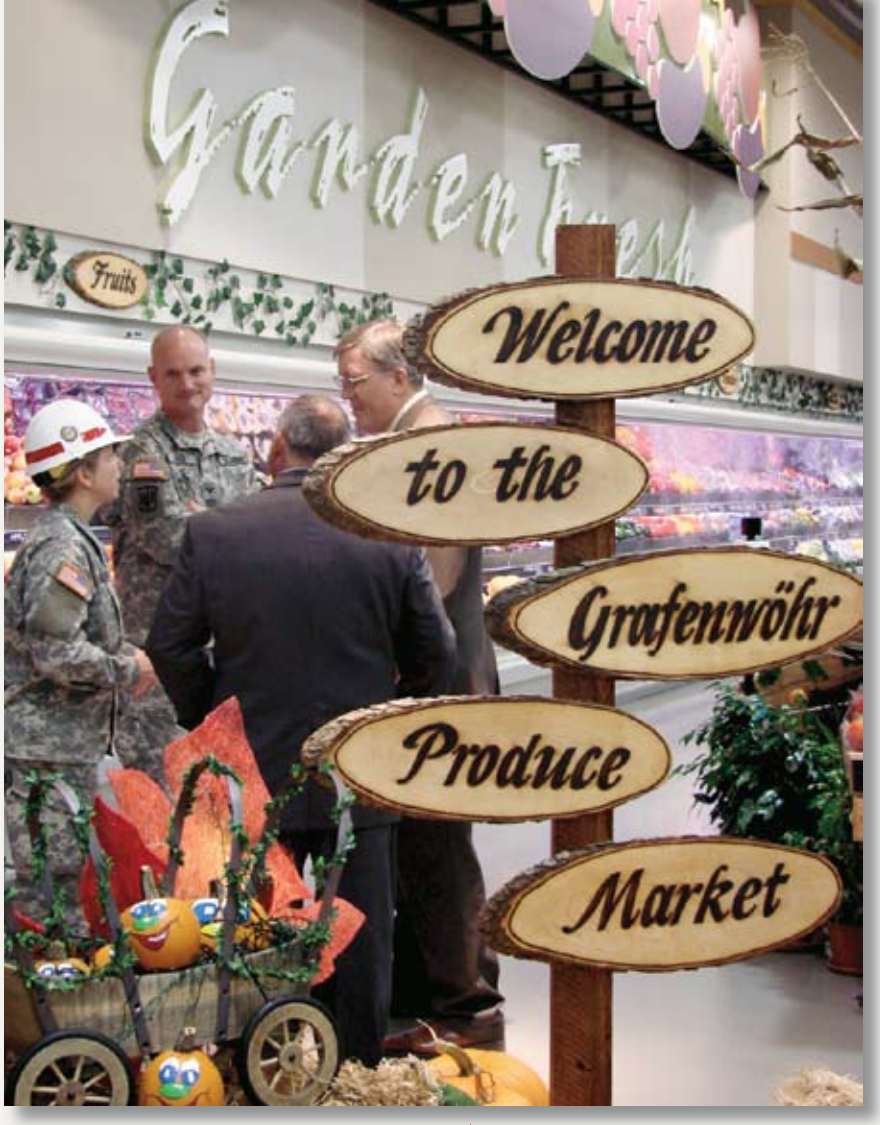
> "Almost $100 million is being put into Grafenwöhr every year to transform it from a rural facility into a highly-developed, livable community."

ing height, better classroom lighting, new parking lots, improved computer-network capabilities, automatic plumbing fixtures, more display cases and a geothermal heat-transfer system.

At Fort Myer, Va., a 50,831-square-foot child-development center will be the largest child-care facility in the Defense Department, accommodating some 350 children from six weeks to five years of age, and 90 children six to 12 years old. It will support military and civilian families who work within the Fort Myer military community and at other locations in the Washington, D.C., area, including the Pentagon.

USACE's Baltimore District is managing the $17 million project, which is to be completed in August.

In Grafenwöhr, Germany, the USACE's Europe District managed the design and construction of the $38 million consolidated Post Exchange/Commissary. The 200,000-square-foot complex includes a bookstore, a 339-seat food court, barber and beauty shops, and space for 11 other concessionaires.



The 200,000-square-foot consolidated post exchange and commissary complex at Grafenwöhr, Germany, is four times larger than the previous store and includes a range of amenities.

The new commissary is four times larger than the previous store, with double the product selection and twice as many check-out lanes, Defense Commissary Agency officials said.

The facilities are within walking distance of several new barracks, a planned lodge, and battalion- and company-operations buildings.

"Almost $100 million is being put into Grafenwöhr every year to transform it from a rural facility into a highly-developed, livable community," said Col. Margaret Burcham, Europe District commander.

At Fort Benning, Ga., the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Fitness Center, a $19 million, 100,000-square-foot facility, was designed using USACE's Centers of Standardization concept.

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala., is the Center of Standardization for physical-fitness centers. Personnel at that center consulted on the facility's design, while USACE's Savannah District in Georgia had the lead for construction.

The Smith Fitness Center is one of the first such centers in the Army built using the physical-fitness center criteria, said Huntsville Center archi-

Swimmers enjoy the pool area of Fort Benning's Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Fitness Center — a facility designed using USACE's Centers of Standardization concept.

tect Jay Clark. Its amenities include a 10,000-square-foot, two-story weight room with a cardio theater; a cardio area in a balcony, where exercisers can see the weight room below; a three-court gym for basketball and volleyball; a lap pool, a recreation pool, and a hot tub; and a large aerobic room that can be divided into two rooms.

Quality healthcare is also essential for the well-being of a community, and the Army is addressing that need.

Bassett Army Community Hospital at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, as an example, is a modern, $215 million medical facility near Fairbanks. It was built by USACE's Alaska District, supporting the U.S. Army Health Facility Planning Agency.

The hospital will support an estimated 25,000 patients in a 46,400-square-mile area.

Built to withstand a major earthquake and be self-sufficient for a short time, the new facility includes 22 medical/surgical beds; 10 labor, delivery, postpartum and recovery beds; four operating rooms; a 40-slice CT scanner; interactive education television, and infant and patient security systems. The hospital also includes a 24-bed recovery ward for same-day surgery.

"Working with our partners to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their families is a high priority for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said Temple. "We continuously strive to design and build quality, adaptable and sustainable facilities that better the lives of our Soldiers and their families. Whether we're building a new medical facility at Fort Belvoir, Va., or any other quality-of-life facility at home or abroad, the Corps of Engineers' commitment to quality-of-life projects can be seen across the Army."

Fort Wainwright's Bassett Army Community Hospital will support an estimated 25,000 patients drawn from a nearly 50,000-square mile area surrounding Fairbanks.

Tom Findtner

IMCOM-West Grows

Story by Michael P. Caldwell

MOST of the installations under Installation Management Command-West are affected by transformation through one of several initiatives, including Base Realignment and Closure, Army Modular Force, General Defense Posture Realignment or Joint Basing, among others.

In the West Region these initiatives will result in a net growth in Soldier and family populations of 30 percent, with more than $12 billion in military construction to

Michael P. Caldwell is chief of the Base Transformation Office for the U.S. Army Installation Management Command-West at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

(Top) Fort Bliss, Texas, is to receive a new brigade combat team compound built using a general layout to be used Armywide. *(Above)* Barracks being built at Fort Lewis, Wash., will house Soldiers relocating to the post from overseas.

A new electrical substation is also under construction at Fort Lewis, which is scheduled to become a joint base after it merges with nearby McChord Air Force Base.

support the growth. These initiatives affect virtually every Army installation in the region, but the growth is particularly significant at Fort Bliss and Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Fort Riley, Kan.; and Fort Sill, Okla.

At Fort Bliss, for example, the Soldier population will increase from 9,551 in fiscal year 2003 to 29,101 in FY 2012. At Fort Sam Houston the medical-trainee population will increase from 4,124 Soldiers in FY 03 to 9,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in FY 2010. Both Fort Sam Houston and Fort Lewis will become joint bases as they merge with local Air Force bases. The Air Defense Artillery Center and School will move from Fort Bliss to Fort Sill, where it will combine with the Field Artillery Center and School to create the Fires Center of Excellence.

This growth will be accommodated either through renovation of existing facilities or construction of new facilities, which include barracks, motor pools, headquarters and operations facilities, ranges and dining facilities.

Concurrently, gymnasiums, child-development centers, child- and youth-services facilities, sports fields, medical facilities, and chapels will be renovated or newly built.

And through the Residential Communities Initiative and Privatization of Army Lodging, family housing and on-post lodging will be expanded to support growth.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the Defense Commissary Agency are also planning to expand or build new post exchanges, shoppettes and commissaries.

At some of IMCOM-West's installations, including Fort Carson, Fort Lewis and Fort Sam Houston, AAFES and the Army Community and Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command will collaborate to create community areas that include restaurants, theaters, child-development centers, fitness centers and, at Fort Sam Houston, a 695-room hotel.

Meantime, local communities have been planning for additional schools, housing, transportation and other infrastructure improvements.

For the next six years arriving Soldiers and families can expect to see construction of all kinds occurring at most installations. In addition to the quality-of-life projects mentioned above, many installations will widen roads, create more access points to mitigate traffic and make other infrastructure improvements.

All these changes will improve the services and quality of life provided to Soldiers, families, and civilians who live or work on IMCOM-West's installations.

Construction at Fort Bliss, Texas, will help the post better accommodate the more than 29,000 Soldiers scheduled to be living there by 2012, up from some 9,500 in 2003.

Rebuilding Iraq

Story by Suzanne Fournier Photos by Jim Gordon

THE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region Division is completing numerous projects across Iraq in the largest reconstruction program since the Marshall Plan was instituted in Europe after World War II.

Iraq's infrastructure — devastated by war, international sanctions and neglect by Saddam Hussein's regime — is being rebuilt in an environment in which armed criminal elements and al-Qaeda terrorists don't want the popularly elected Iraqi government to be successful, USACE officials said.

Reconstruction efforts, in concert with greater security, are vital to Iraq's progress toward democracy, they said.

Since its January 2004 activation, GRD has completed more than 3,700 reconstruction projects across Iraq worth $5.3 billion, and work continues on more than 500 projects worth more than $2 billion.

USACE's efforts are jump-starting the reconstruction of Iraq's infrastructure. The total estimate to completely rebuild the nation's infrastructure is more than $100 billion. U.S. funds are a part of the broader effort, which will be continued with Iraq's own resources and the support of other donor nations.

U.S. assistance projects are providing Iraqis with clean drinking water, more electricity, functioning sewage systems, and new and renovated facilities for education, healthcare and governance.

During the Hussein era, Baghdad had some 20 hours of power a day, but the provinces received little. USACE's efforts have provided increased power more equitably across Iraq. Through key infrastructure improvements in electrical generation, transmission and distribution, the goal of providing an average of 12 hours a day across Iraq has been achieved, with essential services receiving 24 hours of power.

Peak daily power generated has exceeded the pre-war level of 4,300 megawatts and is increasing as more generation is brought on line. Major ongoing projects include the Mussayib power plant in southern Baghdad, which will add approximately 400 megawatts to the national grid.

Approximately $1.7 billion has increased Iraq's oil production capacity to three million barrels per day of oil, natural gas production capacity to 800 million standard cubic feet per day, and liquefied petroleum gas production to 3,000 metric tons per day to meet domestic needs.

At the same time, GRD's goal of

The Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region is completing numerous projects across Iraq in the largest reconstruction effort since the Marshall Plan.

Suzanne Fournier works in the public-affairs office at Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Construction is underway at the Ifraz Water Treatment Plant outside Mosul, a facility which will provide the city and surrounding area with clean drinking water.

adding 1.1 million cubic meters of potable water capacity per day has almost been reached. An estimated 3.8 million more Iraqis have access to potable water today than did before the start of the program.

Twenty sewage-treatment projects, valued collectively at $127 million, are improving living conditions across Iraq. They range from new wastewater-treatment plants, such as the $78 million Phase II of the Fallujah Wastewater System project, to rehabilitation of preexisting facilities and lift stations.

Additionally, GRD has completed 17 hospital-renovation projects that focus on child and maternity care; another seven projects are ongoing, including new hospitals in Basra and Maysan. The Basra Children's Hospital — the first new hospital built in the country since the 1980s — is scheduled for completion in 2008.

Some 142 new primary-healthcare clinics are also being completed and turned over to the Iraqi Ministry of Health. Smaller than traditional hospitals, they can serve about 300 patients a day, providing much-needed services in rural and urban areas.

GRD has completed 809 school projects to date, affecting an estimated 324,000 students. Before reconstruction started, many schools had dirt floors. The new facilities — which boast potable water, desks, blackboards and play areas — give Iraq's children clean and safe places to learn.

Projects in the transportation arena include 607 kilometers of roads, five bridges, renovation of 98 railroad facilities, 19 aviation projects and eight projects at the port of Umm Qasr.

Security and justice projects include the completion of 114 border posts, 13 point-of-entry facilities, 95 fire stations and 33 courthouse projects. Construction and rehabilitation of additional correctional facilities is providing 8,000 additional beds and improved conditions for prisoners.

Every bit as important in meeting the needs of Iraqi society is the sustainment of the physical infrastructure to meet the needs of Iraqis for years to come. Overall, the Corps of Engineers' Sustainment and Technical Capacity Program, valued at $345 million, is providing Iraqis with the training, supplies and tools necessary to operate facilities and use and maintain equipment.

Nearly 500 contracts — totaling more than $200 million — have been awarded to Iraqi businesswomen; 105 engineers have monthly access to Web-based training focusing on project-management skills, masonry, and fundamentals of design; and more than 690 Ministry of Water Resources employees have been trained on operations and maintenance of water-treatment facilities.

GRD Logistics manages the receipt, transportation and distribution of $12 billion worth of materials and equipment to support reconstruction and security efforts across Iraq. These materials provide items ranging from hospital beds, laboratory and X-ray equipment, furnishings and computers for Iraqi government offices to vehicles, weapons, ammunition and uniforms for Iraqi police and army units.

GRD Logistics has tracked more than 16,000 materiel convoys since August 2004. More than 35,000 vehicles, 510,000 weapons, 447 million rounds of ammunition, 3.4 million sets of individual body armor and helmets, and 947,000 uniforms have been delivered.

The GRD team includes Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, USACE civilians and other government civilians, contractors and Iraqi associates, all of whom have a common purpose: to complete the reconstruction mission and assist the Iraqi government in assuming full responsibility for its national infrastructure.

Two pilots from the 101st Airborne Division's 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, fly a new CH-47F using the aircraft's Advanced Flight Control System.

The Army Welcomes a NEW

Story and Photos by Gregory Frye

THE latest version of the Army's long-serving Chinook heavy-lift helicopter took to the air Aug. 15 at Fort Campbell, Ky.

The 159th Combat Aviation Brigade's Company B, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, is the first aviation unit to use the CH-47F Chinook, most notable for its tandem rotors and heavy-lift abilities.

"How appropriate that we come together here with this aircraft at this installation with this unit," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Shloesser, commander of the 101st Airborne Division, at the ceremony marking the aircraft's official introduction.

Fort Campbell has long been the home of the CH-47, and has a history of being a first choice for testing and using new Army aircraft.

Gregory Frye works for the Fort Campbell, Ky., Courier.

Fort Campbell received the first production CH-47F in August 2007. Company B, 7th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt., is the first unit in the world to re-equip with the advanced Chinook.

CHINOOK

The new F-model Chinook incorporates a range of state-of-the-art systems intended to ensure it remains the world's premier heavy-lift helicopter for years.

A Veteran Lifter

The Chinook has proved itself in every deployment in which the Army has engaged since 1962, Shloesser said, and first showed its combat capabilities in Vietnam.

Constant upgrades and modifications have ensured that the CH-47 series has remained combat ready since then, and the new F-model aircraft incorporates a range of state-of-the-art systems intended to ensure it remains the world's premier heavy-lift helicopter for years to come.

The most notable modification is the Advanced Flight Control System, which replaces the analog gauges found in older models with digital screens. The AFCS allows pilots to easily upload such mission details as routes and altitudes, improves overall situational awareness and makes for a smoother ride.

"It's really exciting to get a new aircraft," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan Dechent, a 7th Bn. Chinook pilot. "I think it's going to extend our capabilities, and it will open new avenues we haven't been able to go down before."

Another primary modification includes a revamped airframe designed for 10,000 flight hours, helping to further eliminate extraneous vibrations and maintenance time.

"In the Army we're not about airframes, we're about the people the airframe helps," Schloesser said. "We're about the combat power and the readiness an aircraft helps deliver, and about the crews that maintain it and the aviators who fly it."

The Chinook has saved many people throughout the world in wartime missions and humanitarian efforts such as Hurricane Katrina and earthquakes in Pakistan, he said.

"It provides more capability at an easier maintenance cost than ever before," Schloesser said, emphasizing the importance of supporting troops on the ground.

Updating the Best

The Boeing Co. worked with the Army for three years to design and prepare the new model, the first conventional Chinook upgrade in more than 20 years.

"The CH-47F will fully meet the operational challenges our Army and our country face now and in the future," said Chuck Allen, Boeing's vice president and general manager of rotorcraft systems.

In addition to being delivered on time, the new Chinook came out 30 percent below the original cost estimate.

Safety is the best thing about the new model, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Tom Miskowiec, the 7th Bn.'s standardization instructor pilot and instrument flight examiner. "In safety there's capability. When we can do it safer and, for that matter, easier, it provides us with more abilities to support the warfighter.

"There's a lot of excitement about this aircraft, and a lot of people are very happy to be involved with fielding it," he said. "This is a transition, another chapter for an aircraft that already has a long history."

The new technologies incorporated in the CH-47F will allow it to ably serve the Army for the next 20 to 30 years, he said.

More than 100 CH-47Fs will be built from the ground up, while some 229 earlier-model aircraft will be modified to F-model standard.

Fred Troilo

The first production CH-47F Chinook helicopter successfully completed its first flight in October 2007 at the Boeing Rotorcraft Systems facility in Ridley Park, Pa.

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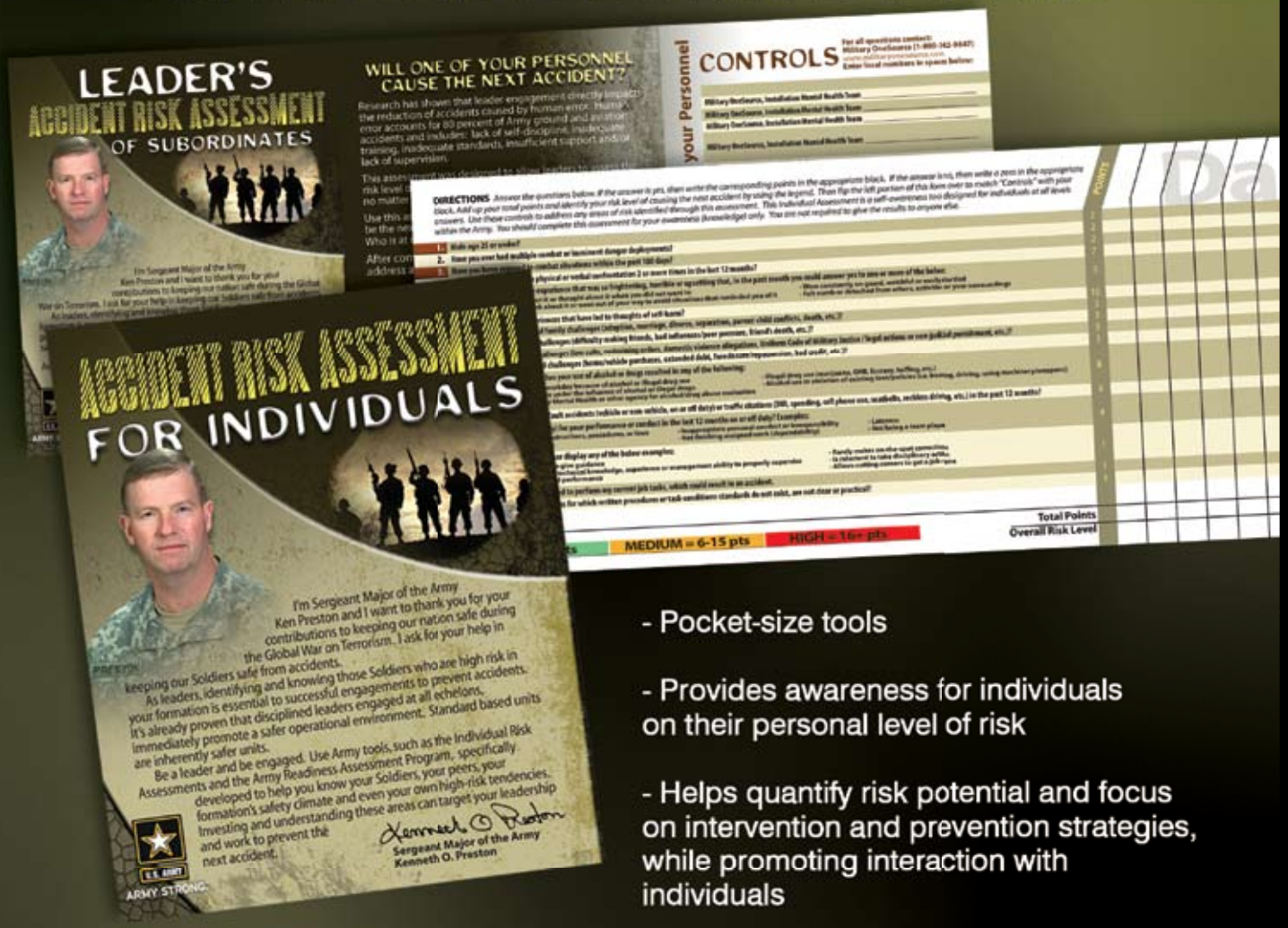

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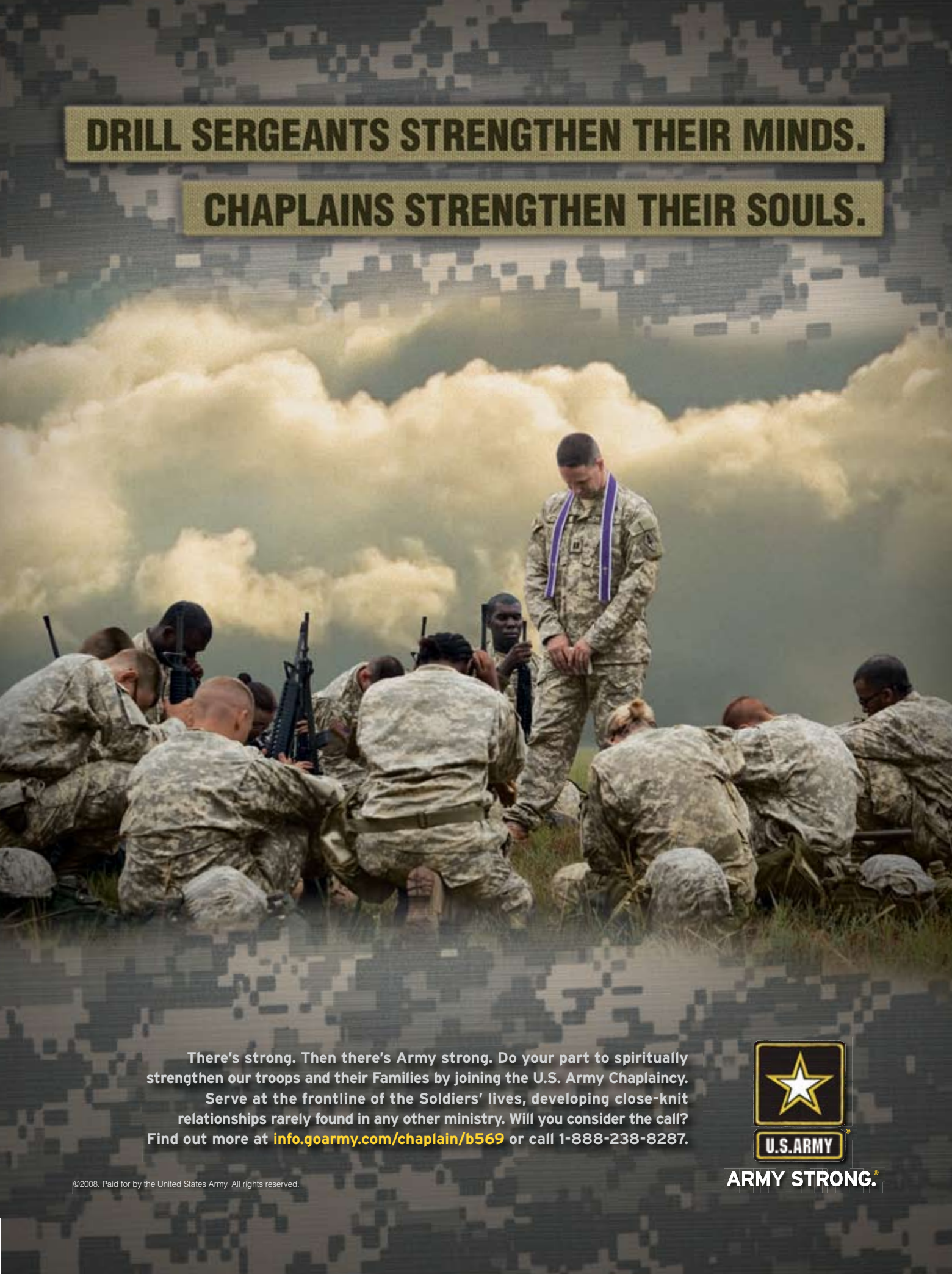
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